

Department of Energy

Memorandum

Nov 30 1 56 PM '62 Rocky Flats Office

NOV 30 1992

ERD SG 13466

Operable Unit 1 (881 Hillside) Plutonium Contamination

**Robert Benedetti Acting Associate General Manager
Environmental Restoration Management
EG&G Rocky Flats Inc**



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The occurrence and detection of a significant concentration of plutonium soil contamination adjacent to the Operable Unit 1 (OU1) Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action collector well raises significant issues. We are most concerned how this spot could have been missed with all of the numerous radiation surveys conducted in the vicinity of the IM/IRA collection well. This is particularly troublesome with the number of surveys conducted in this specific area as a result of the two radioactive rings discovered in February and March 1992 while constructing the collection well.

A major issue is that this location has yet to be posted as per our memorandum (ERD SG 7784) dated August 27 1992 that has instructed EG&G to post as a radiological contaminated area and control access for areas above 4 pCi/gram Americium 241 (25 pCi/gram Plutonium 239) Preliminary information indicates that this specific location appears to be orders of magnitude greater This area was identified in August 1992 as a contaminated area. On October 23 1992 we gave instructions to the OU1 staff to post the area immediately As of November 20 1992 the area has yet to be posted as a radiological contamination area. Posting of this area is to occur **immediately!**

You are also instructed to take appropriate samples to characterize the contamination. Although offsite laboratory analysis may be appropriate, we request a quicker on site (qualitative) analysis and characterization so that we can have information as soon as practicable.

Once the area is posted please contact either Rich Schassburger at extension 4888 or Scott Grace at extension 7199 to provide details. When a time estimate for qualitative analysis is made, also contact Rich or Scott.

Reviewed to Addressee
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DATE BY

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